

The newsletter of First Reformed United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

www.firstreformeducc.org

We helped build a house!

First Reformed United Church of Christ continues our long term commitment to support Habitat for Humanity of Alamance County as participants in the July 2023 Unity Build. The Unity build brings together Ministry Partners to build community across race, denomination, and theological differences to put God's love into action. The Unity Build Home is one of three Habitat homes being completed on Key Street in Burlington.

Thanks to all who contributed to this effort in a number of ways:

- The Mission and Outreach Team submitted a proposal to the Endowment Committee requesting \$10,000 for this year's Unity Build. Thanks to the Endowment Committee for approving the request.
- First Reformed Build Team members - Kyle Hayes, Susan Hayes, Stella McLean, Daniel Jolly, Tom Burgess, and Derek Smith - worked on one or both of our assigned dates - July 22 and July 26.
- The Morning and Evening Circles provided refreshments for the builders on July 29.
- Each church was asked to decorate a 2x4 beam that will be part of the structure of the home. Thanks to Rachel Green and Bev Pugh for creating the artwork for the First Reformed beam.

Bev Pugh
Mission and Outreach Team

Inside this issue:

[illegible]

Friendship

Last month was my official good-bye newsletter ... full of thanks and gratitude for each of you and the gift you and FRUCC has been in my life. But let me say once again – thank you for the privilege of being your pastor for 18 months. It has been a joy and I will miss you all.

On August 1, you will be welcoming a wonderful, gifted and gracious minister: Reverend Grace McMullen! I am so excited for your upcoming partnership. While I will no longer function as your pastor, I am open to catching up with you as a friend if you happen to be driving through Greensboro and get a hankering for good cuppa coffee (or tea). My only request is that we not speak about church related concerns/issues ... but would love to hear about you and of the happy and wonderful things happening at FRUCC.

My cell phone is: 336.317.5394 and my personal email address is: notadoctorsuess@gmail.com (Note: be sure to spell Suess correctly ... slightly different spelling than the good doctor!)

Please know you all and Pastor Grace will remain in my heart and in my prayers.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

Deborah Suess

The Morning Circle will meet at Carver's for breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 30.



**8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday - Friday**

Birthdays

- 2 Leslie Johnson
- 3 Lisa Myers
- 22 JoAnn Oakes
- 26 Susan Hayes
Derek Smith
- 29 Tom Burgess
- 31 Betty Lawrie



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

—George Washington Carver

Daily reasons to celebrate

Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer. Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day.

If you share life with young kids, have a water balloon fight on — you guessed it — National Water Balloon Day, August 6! Head out for a final (National) Beach Day on August 30. Or head out for an intergenerational hike on National Trail Mix Day, August 31.

And don't forget to celebrate God's precious gifts of friends — National Friendship Day is the first Sunday in August; creation — Global Sleep Under the Stars Night is August 8 (prime time for meteor showers!); laughter — National Tell a Joke Day is August 16; and the opportunity to put God's love into action by serving others — on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, or August 28, National Thoughtful Day, and, for that matter, every day of the year — holiday or not.

Consistory Notes

The Consistory of FRUCC, Wednesday June 12, 2023. In addition to Deborah Suess there were seven members in attendance.

Approval of Reports

The May minutes were approved.

Ministry Team Reports

Mission and Outreach

Beverly Pugh, Tom Burgess, Teresa Ibarra

- Labor Day Lunch: Monday September 4, 12:00-1:00 Menu: Hot dogs, baked beans, chips—donations requested of deserts, tea, and lemonade
- Habitat for Humanity - Unity Build - Beam has been turned in and installed in the house. Women's build is scheduled for September

Pastor's Report

- Rev. Grace McMullen update – Husband - Heath McFarland, and step-children are Billy McFarland and Fiona McFarland.
- Transition Team: Stella, Mike, Brenda and Amy
- Great work on bathroom work etc
- August 6 – will work with Grace re: order of service etc/ Amy & Derek present her with stoles etc...
- Liturgist schedule: August 6: Amy, August 13: Mike, August 20: Stella, August 27: Brenda
- Evals? Exit interview? To be scheduled with the personnel committee
- Pictorial Directory update. Pictures must be included by July 14
- Items I need to finish up on?? Questions? Concerns?



New business

- Transition team to ask Grace about children attendance and our need to provide Sunday school and/or nursery.
- A request has been made by Amy Marsh to hold a musical concert December 9 in our facility. The Sanctuary and one other room will be utilized. They will also need the space for two practices before the concert date. Beverly Pugh will meet with Amy to discuss in further detail and report back to Consistory before decisions are made to approve.

Old Business

- Cell phone has been acquired for Grace
- We had a personnel meeting 6/7 - Beverly is working on a Job Description for Grace and will meet again 7/5. Staff are documenting their current job responsibilities.
- Safe Church Training needed for YMA
- Request to endowment submitted for CPR class
- Met 6/13 with Mitch Wilds from the Raleigh State Historic Commission about the doors.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudette Fitzgerald
Consistory Secretary

God is watching

In the cafeteria line one day, a seminary dean noticed a bowl of big, juicy oranges. A sign by it read, "Take only one. God is watching you!" At the other end of the lunch line sat a large plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Beside it was a hastily scrawled note, likely from a hungry student: "Take as many cookies as you want. God is back there watching the oranges."

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



Connection is published monthly by
First Reformed United Church of Christ.
513 West Front Street
Burlington, NC 27215
(336)226-7346
fruccoffice@gmail.com
firstreformeducc.org

Pastor	Grace McMullen
Ministry Assistant/Editor	Carol Burnett
Organist	David Ratchford
Music Coordinator/Chime Choir	Beverly Pugh

Suggestions and contributions for our newsletter
are welcomed and encouraged.
The deadline for each issue is
the 15th of each month.

Sunday Services

9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship

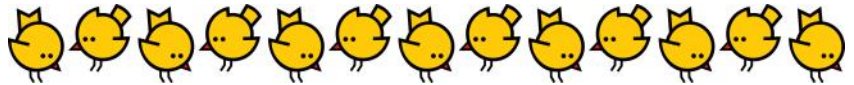
All are welcome!

Jesus didn't reject people. Neither do we.



First Reformed United Church of Christ
513 West Front Street
Burlington, NC 27215

- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED -



Mission Statement

At First Reformed UCC, we are:

***Striving to become living expressions
of God's extravagant grace and love.***

We seek to accomplish this by...

1. Welcoming all persons with a warmth and hospitality that will help them realize that God loves them beyond imagination and that they are of extreme value.
2. Gathering in moments of worship and celebration characterized by authenticity, vitality, and creativity – where one may experience and share the life-changing presence of God in a multitude of ways.
3. Offering a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth, faith development, and supportive fellowship.
4. Helping persons to explore and develop their own individual gifts for ministry and inviting them to share generously of their time, talents and resources.
5. Engaging in acts of service and love that will express the compassion, mercy, and justice of Christ in the world.